

HEALTH
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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1951.



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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951, which is submitted in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and Circular 42/51 of the Ministry of Health.

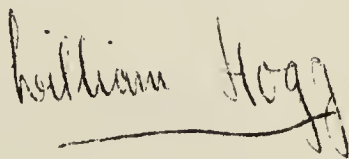
My thanks are due to Colonel N. Blake of the Ross Water Undertaking, for information respecting the water supplies provided within the area by the Ross Water Undertaking.

Also I have to acknowledge assistance most willingly given me, not only in the preparation of this Report but throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr. D. Thomas, Clerk to the Council; and Mr. G. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor to the Council.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support which the Chairman and Members of the Council have given me in the discharge of my duties.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

25th June, 1952.

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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
M.R.S.I.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss A.O. Gale

Telephone:-

Ross 214

County Offices,

Alton Street,

Ross-on-Wye.

SANITARY INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND HOUSING
DESIGNATED OFFICER

+ Mr. G.E. Hardy, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

+ø Mr. C.W.J. Manley, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.

+ Certificate as Meat Inspector
ø Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

CLERK TO THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

Mr. C.H. Scruby.

Telephone:-

Ross 511

"Woodside",

Ross-on-Wye.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

1100 EAST 58TH STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

1999

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

1999

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND PARISHES REPRESENTED

Chairman of the Council - Major H.S.Allfrey, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council - Mr. L. Drayson Russill.

Mrs. I. Harding.	...	Aston Ingham.
Mr. L. Drayson Russill.	...	Ballingham.
Mr. H.E. Sainsbury.	...	Brampton Abbotts.
Mr. B.C. Hackett.	...	Bridstow.
Mr. G.L. Clay, J.P.	...	Brockhampton.
Mr.G.G. Bevan.	...	Foy.
Mr. H.W. Parish, J.P.	...	Ganarew.
Mr. A.N. Cole.	...	Garway.
Vice Admiral J.L. Pearson, C.M.G., J.P.	...	Goodrich.
Mr. H.W. Badger.	...	Harewood and Llandinabo.
Mrs. M.J. Williamson.	...	Hentland.
Mr. R.D. Margrett.	...	Hope Mansel.
Major H.S. Allfrey, J.P.	...	How Caple and Sollershope.
Mr. R.J. Jenkins.	...	Kings Caple.
Mr. G. Savidge.	...	Lea.
Mr. W. Morris.	...	Linton.
Mr. J.B. Sainsbury.	...	Linton.
Mr. C.B. Freer, J.P.	...	Llangarron.
Mr. J.F. MacLean, J.P.	...	Llangarron.
Mr. J.R. Ravenhill.	...	Llanrothal.
Mr. J.J. Rosser.	...	Llanwarne.
Mr. G.W. Banfield.	...	Marstow.
Mr. C. King.	...	Pencoyd.
Mr. H.C. Teague.	...	Peterstow.
Mr. H.T. Allen.	...	Ross Rural.
Mr. G.F. Webb.	...	Ross Rural.
Mr. J. Bowen.	...	St. Weonards.
Mr. E.P.C. Whittal.	...	Sellack.
Mr. T.W. Dew.	...	Tretire and Michaelchurch.
Mr. A.T. Powell.	...	Upton Bishop.
Mr. A.E. Thompson.	...	Upton Bishop.
Mr. R. Pashley, J.P.	...	Walford.
Mrs. D. Trafford.	...	Walford.
Very Rev. F.M. Dreeves.	...	Welsh Bicknor.
Mr. H.R. Biggs.	...	Welsh Newton.
Mr. G.A. Biggs.	...	Weston-under-Penyard.
Mr. S.W. Sharpley.	...	Weston-under-Penyard.
Mr. H.S. Cumbley.	...	Whitchurch.
Mr. J. King.	...	Whitchurch.
Mr. R.F. Cotton.	...	Yatton.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Ross and Whitchurch Rural District lies in the south of the County of Hereford, surrounding the Urban District of Ross-on-Wye, and is divided into eastern and western parts, of roughly equal area, by the winding course of the river Wye. These two divisions are connected by bridges at Hoarwithy, Foy (pedestrians only), Wilton, Kerne Bridge and Huntsham.

The area is purely rural in character; all phases of agriculture are found within the district. The production of timber provides some employment, and the scenery and the reputation of the Wye attracts visitors. Limestone quarries are worked in the Whitchurch area and at Gorsley.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Area in acres.	...	72,105
Census Population.	...	11,829
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population.	...	11,660
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.51).	...	3,483
Rateable Value.	...	£43,287
Sum represented by a penny rate.	...	£172.4.10.
Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude).	...	16.6
Corrected live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population.	...	18.9
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.	...	15.3
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population (crude).	...	14.2
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population.	...	11.2
Area Comparability Factor. (Births).	...	1.14
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths).	...	0.79

Deaths from Maternal Causes.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total births.</u>
Heading No.30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	1	5.1

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	41.5
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live Births.	...	39.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live Births.	...	71.4

Population.

The Census population for the Rural District is 11,829 which may be compared with the census population for 1921 of 11,859, and for the previous census year (1931) of 11,608. The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 11,660. The natural increase of population (the excess of live births over deaths) is 27, which compares with a natural increase for 1950 of 25.

The population is contained in 3,483 dwellings, giving an average number of persons per inhabited house of 3.40. The gross density of dwellings for the district is 0.048 dwellings per acre. The average number of persons per acre is 0.164.

The parish having the largest area is Llangarron with 5,411 acres, whilst the smallest is Llandinabo with 500 acres. There are 28 parishes containing over 1000 acres. The parish having the largest population is Walford.

Births.

The number of live births registered as having occurred within the Rural District during the year is 193 (103 males and 90 females), and the unadjusted live birth rate is 16.6 per 1000 of the estimated population. For the year 1950, 178 live births gave a rate of 15.4 per 1000. The Area comparability factor is 1.14 and applying this to the crude birth rate, the adjusted live birth rate is 18.9 per 1000 population. The live birth rate of England and Wales for the year is 15.5 per 1000 population.

The number of illegitimate live births which occurred during the year under review is 14 (8 male and 6 female). This figure is identical with that of the previous year. The illegitimate live births form 7.3% of the total live births, a ratio slightly lower than that for the year 1950 (7.9%). The legitimate live birth rate is 15.4 per 1000 population whilst the illegitimate live birth rate is 1.2 per 1000 population. The ratio male/female live births is 1.14.

Stillbirths.

Three stillbirths are recorded (2 male and 1 female), and the stillbirth rate is therefore 15.3 per 100 total births. This figure is less than that for the previous year when 7 stillbirths produced a stillbirth rate of 37.8 per 1000 total births.

Using the estimated population as the basis, the still birth rate for the Rural District is 0.26 per 1000 population - somewhat lower than the England and Wales stillbirth rate of 0.36 per 1000 total population for the year. The ratio of male/female stillbirths is 2. No stillbirths occurred out of wedlock.

Deaths.

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred in the District during the year is 166 (83 male and 83 female). This total is obtained after deducting the number of deaths of non-residents which occurred within the District and adding the number of deaths of residents which took place in other areas. It is somewhat greater than the number of deaths during 1950 which was 153 (78 male and 83 female). The ratio of male/female deaths is 1.

The crude death rate for the Rural District for the year is 14.2 per 1000 population, and applying the Area comparability factor of 0.79, the corrected death rate is 11.2 per 1000 population - a rate slightly greater than that of the previous year. The death rate for England and Wales for the year is 12.5 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death
according to Sex and Mortality Rates.

No.	Cause.	Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 Population.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	1	1	0.07
3.	Syphilitic Disease.	1	-	1	0.07
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	3	1	4	0.27
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	1	3	0.20
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1	0.07
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	-	2	2	0.14
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	5	11	16	1.08
16.	Diabetes.	-	1	1	0.07
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	7	13	20	1.36
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	11	5	16	1.08
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	1	3	4	0.27
20.	Other heart disease.	16	21	37	2.51
21.	Other circulatory disease.	2	2	4	0.27
22.	Influenza.	-	2	2	0.14
23.	Pneumonia.	3	3	6	0.41
24.	Bronchitis.	4	4	8	0.54
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-	1	0.07
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	2	4	0.27
27.	Gast.ritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea.	2	-	2	0.14
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	2	2	4	0.27
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	3	-	3	0.20
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	1	1	0.07
31.	Congenital malformations.	2	-	2	0.14
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	13	3	16	1.08
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents.	-	2	2	0.14
34.	All other accidents.	3	1	4	0.27
35.	Suicide.	-	1	1	0.07
All Causes.		83	83	166	11.27

An analysis of deaths by cause shows that the greatest number is due to heart diseases (headings 18, 19 and 20), accounting for 57 deaths. This is a usual experience and occurs every year. The death rate from these causes calculates out at 4.88 per 1000 population (crude) or 3.86 per 1000 population (corrected).

Vascular lesions of the nervous system accounted for 20 deaths (7 males and 13 females) and the death rates from this cause are 1.73 (crude) and 1.37 (corrected) per 1000 population, showing little change on the figure for the previous year.

Cancer Deaths.

This year 26 deaths are due to cancer of all types (10 male and 16 female), giving a crude death rate from cancer of all sites of 2.23 per 1000 population. The corrected death rate from all forms of cancer for the year is 1.76 per 1000 population. The ratio of male/female deaths from all forms of cancer is 0.625.

Infant Mortality.

The number of babies under the age of one year who died is 8 (7 male and 1 female). Of these infants, 7 were legitimate infants, and the infant mortality rate is 41.5 per 1000 live births; the rate for England and Wales is 29.6 per 1000 live births. The Rural District rate for 1950, when 6 infants died, was 33.7 per 1000 live births.

Since there was one death of a male illegitimate infant, the illegitimate infant mortality rate is 71.4 per 1000 illegitimate live births, whilst the legitimate infant mortality rate is 39.1 per 1000 legitimate live births.

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

All except one of the 8 infant deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life; the neo-natal mortality is, therefore, 36.3 per 1000 live births. The legitimate neo-natal mortality rate is 33.5 per 1000 legitimate live births and the illegitimate neo-natal rate is 71.4 per 1000 illegitimate live births.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Disease.

The only notifiable infectious disease recorded as cause of death is pneumonia, which gave six deaths (3 male and 3 female).

Tuberculosis Deaths.

Only one death is attributed to tuberculosis of the respiratory system. The adjusted death rate from this disease is 0.07 per 1000 population. The death rate from this cause for England and Wales is 0.31 per 1000 population.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREAPublic Health Laboratory.

The facilities available to the District at the Public Health Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. D.R. Christie, remained unchanged. The Laboratory in the early part of the year was moved from the County Offices, Hereford, to new premises at the County Hospital, Hereford. The Laboratory is of the utmost value in assisting the work of the Department.

The following table gives the number of investigations undertaken on behalf of the Department during the year:-

Swabs.	...	33
Sputa.	...	9
Urine (Bacteria).	...	7
" (Chemical).	...	1
Faeces.	...	67
Ice Cream.	...	19
Milk for organisms.	...	1
Milk for tuberculosis.	...	5
Milk (Methylene Blue Test).	...	71
Water (Bacteriological).	...	79
Foods (for organisms).	...	3
		<hr/> 295

In addition, 5 samples of water were submitted to the Public Analyst, Mr. Rowland Ellis, for chemical examination.

Public Mortuary.

The Council has an arrangement with the Ross-on-Wye Urban District Council for the reception of bodies from the Rural District at the Public Mortuary, Homs Road, Ross-on-Wye. During the year 5 bodies were removed from the Rural District to the Public Mortuary.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals situated within the District. The needs of the population in this respect are met by hospitals at Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Gloucester and Monmouth.

Ambulances.

Ambulances are provided in the adjacent towns for the use of persons residing within the Rural District.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology.

The prevailing geological formation of the District is Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System with an outcrop of Silurian limestone along the south eastern boundary from Upton Bishop to Gorsley and Aston Ingham. In the parishes of Walford and Whitchurch, along the southern boundary of the District, there is an outcrop of carboniferous limestone.

The Old Red Sandstone is represented chiefly by red and green sandstones and marl with outcrops of Old Red Conglomerate in some areas.

The Old Red Sandstone is a porous rock, somewhat brittle and prone to weather badly, and is unsuitable for building purposes. During wet periods, numerous shallow springs arise which rapidly disappear when dry weather supervenes.

It is usually said that the Old Red Sandstone is not a particularly good water bearing stratum, and wells and springs of the area are somewhat unreliable during dry weather.

Water Supplies.

In the area immediately surrounding the Urban District, the mains of the Ross Water Undertaking provide a constant supply of wholesome water at adequate pressure throughout the year in the parishes of Ross Rural, and in parts of Bridstow, Walford and Weston-under-Penyard.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from the Ross Water Undertaking mains in these parishes are:-

Bridstow	...	147
Ross Rural	...	107
Walford	...	42
Weston-under-Penyard	...	5

All these supplies are by means of service pipes to the dwellings with the exception of 7 dwellings in Bridstow supplied by standpipes.

The water of the Ross Water Undertaking is obtained from boreholes in the Old Red Sandstone at the Alton Court Works; the water is of good potable quality, though somewhat hard. It requires no preliminary treatment other than chlorination, this being applied as the water passes through the rising main leading to the covered reservoir on Chase Hill.

As a result of the chlorination treatment applied it is frequently found that the water as it issues from the tap is sterile. Facilities exist for obtaining samples of the water before treatment, and tests have shown that the number of organisms per 100 c.cs. in the untreated water is very low.

The Rural District Council has provided piped water supplies in the parishes of Brampton Abbots, Llangarron, Garway and Harewood, each producing a constant supply of potable water.

Brampton Abbotts Supply. Brampton Abbotts is supplied from water purchased in bulk from the Ross Water Undertaking. During the year an improvement scheme was commenced, being completed in May, 1951. This comprised an extension of the 2" rising main by 1222 yards to a new additional reservoir of 13,000 gallons capacity, together with the necessary pumps. The original reservoir (capacity 12,000) gallons was maintained, and continued to be used.

Garway Supply. This scheme makes use of a land spring which is impounded on high ground. The yield of the spring is subject to considerable variation according to local rainfall, but for the present is adequate for the demand. The water is put into supply without preliminary treatment. The number of dwellings supplied by service is 70, and 7 are supplied by means of standpipes.

Llangarron Supply. - This piped water supply, which supplies part of Llangarron parish, utilises spring water, pumped to the reservoirs situated at an appropriate level. The water is passed into supply without preliminary treatment and is adequate for present demands. The yield of the spring is subject to variation correlated with the rainfall. The scheme supplies 156 dwellings by individual services and 11 dwellings are supplied by standpipes.

The power for the pump is furnished by a water wheel with a diesel set as a reserve source of power. Flooding of the river is liable to interfere with this supply.

Llancloudy Supply. This is a separate scheme which supplies the Llancloudy area of Llangarron parish. The water of a land spring is collected and piped to 21 dwellings. There is one standpipe on this supply.

As the quality of the water has not been entirely satisfactory, a chlorinator is provided. This supply has been inadequate for the demand in the past, but this now appears to have been overcome as a breakout spring has been diverted into the reservoir of the Local Authority.

Harewood End Supply. This small scheme was purchased by the Council in 1944. Water is pumped from a shallow well supplied by overshot water wheel with an internal combustion engine as an auxiliary power unit. The scheme supplies 29 dwellings by piped services.

The schemes of the Local Authority considered together, give water supply to 333 dwellings or 9.4% of the inhabited houses within the Rural District. The number of dwellings supplied by the Ross Water Undertaking is 301 or 8.6% of the inhabited houses.

In addition to the piped supplies provided by the Statutory Undertakers and the Local Authority, there are small piped schemes in the ownership of private individuals. These private mains give supplies in the parishes of Bridstow, Brockhampton, Foy, Ganarew, Goodrich, Hentland, Hope Mansel, How Caple, Lea, Marstow, Pencoyd, Weston, Upton Bishop, Whitchurch, Walford, St. Weonards and Welsh Newton. These schemes utilise water from a variety of sources. The Department cannot exercise more than a slight supervision of these supplies. The number of dwellings supplied in each case varies from 2 to 73 in the largest. The total dwellings obtaining supplies from these private mains is 463, so far as can be determined.

The remaining dwellings are supplied from public or private wells and a number depend upon the collection of rainwater. The wells are usually of the shallow type and many cannot be regarded as satisfactory sources of potable water. The wet summer enabled many of the shallow wells to continue to supply water throughout the year.

The existing water supplies of the area are not adequate in quantity for the whole of the area, and part of the population is obliged to rely upon waters of indifferent potable quality. The deficiency is not general throughout the area, but the parishes of Whitchurch, Sellack, Hentland, St. Weonards, Goodrich, Peterstow and Ballingham have most urgent need.

Being aware that the water supplies of the area were not entirely satisfactory, the Council took steps towards the provision of a piped supply for the greater part of the area. An application for loan was made to the Minister, and a local public enquiry was held in the early part of the year. At the time of writing the Minister has not yet given any decision. This scheme is based upon the distribution of water from boreholes at Castlebrook, Walford.

The very large number of separate sources of supply renders control of potable water difficult, so a few routine samples of waters that are suspected to be polluted represents the results of the year's work. The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination was 79, and the number of samples submitted for chemical examination was 5. A bacteriological examination of water is useful as a rapid test for routine purposes, and where pollution is suspected. Regular inspections and proper maintenance of Local Authority Schemes are essential features of the control of public water supplies

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are now three short lengths of public sewer within the District, in Upton Bishop, in Goodrich, and the third at Hildersley. No extensions of public or private sewers were made during the year. The new sewage disposal works for Goodrich sewer have not given very good service and appear to have been overloaded.

Small sewage disposal works were constructed in connection with the site for new Council houses at Brampton Abbotts.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made 157 drain tests. The number of new drains provided in connection with dwelling houses was 84, and 23 new drains were provided for other premises. The number of existing drains found to be defective and reconstructed or repaired was 26. It was found necessary to make 149 inspections in connection with drainage.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks other than those on the Council's own property.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Wye divides the District into eastern and western parts, these being approximately equal in area. The River Garron runs through the western part, receiving its tributary, the Gamber, at Llangarron and finally joins the Wye at Old Forge, Goodrich.

All these rivers flow through rural country and are clean and unobjectionable. No action by the Department or by the Council to prevent or abate river pollution was necessary during the year.

The River Wye is attractive to swimmers in certain parts of the District, but since accidental drowning is not unknown, swimmers should have adequate skill and some knowledge of the river.

Closet Accommodation.

The commonest type of closet in use in the District is the pail closet, and it is estimated that 60% of the inhabitants use this type. A further estimated 15% are still obliged to use privies and it is considered that the remaining 25% enjoy the use of water closets. The reason for the continued wide use of conservancy systems is chiefly the lack of piped water supplies.

During the year 14 privies and 21 pail closets were converted to water closets. In addition, 16 privies were converted to pail closets. Fairly satisfactory progress continued to be made in the provision of closet accommodation. Apart from conversions 59 water closets were provided.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of privies and pail closets other than those on the Council's property. No public conveniences are provided by the Council, but need of provision in the Whitchurch area exists. This parish has a significant influx of day visitors during the holiday season.

Public Cleansing.

Throughout the year, a collection of domestic refuse was operated in all parts of the District by the Council. The collection is carried out by a properly constructed tipping collection vehicle, provided with adjustable covers. With a single vehicle it has not been found possible to make a collection more frequently than once a month from all accessible dwelling houses.

The domestic refuse is tipped on two sites, one situated at Deep Dean, in Walford parish, and the other at Tre-essey in Llangarron parish. The use of two tips avoids the necessity for uneconomic long hauls, but four tips would appear to offer still greater advantages in this direction. Some measure of control of tipping is in operation at the tips, which is sufficient for the purpose, and the present method of disposal would appear to be the only practicable method available to the Council. This method of disposal may ultimately be of some benefit as a means of filling in excavated areas.

During the year, the vehicle with its crew of two men travelled 14,630 miles, conveying 510 loads of 10 cubic yards each. The average mileage per load is 28 miles. These figures show a small reduction on the corresponding figures of the previous year. The Council does not undertake the collection of trade refuse.

The domestic refuse collected has a low organic content, being chiefly composed of tins, bottles and other incombustible articles. The risk of spontaneous combustion on the tips is, therefore, very low.

The Council has no duties in connection with street cleansing, and there are no public baths or washhouses within the area.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public within the District.

Shops and Offices.

The number of shops and offices within the District is very small, and no action was taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, in connection with shops.

Camping Sites.

The number of licensed sites in the area used for camping purposes during the year was 12. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers resident in the area at any one time was 75. All sites are inspected during the season, 14 inspections being made, and attention is given to water supply, refuse disposal and closet accommodation.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No dwellings were found to be infested with bed-bugs, and disinfection was not required. In the past such disinfections have been carried out by contractors using hydrogen cyanide, a measure not without some risk.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses within the Rural District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

I am indebted to Mr. G.E. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for the following tabular statement for the year 1951, furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections.

Accumulations.	...	21
Bakehouses.	...	18
Camping Sites.	...	14
Caravans.	...	27
Dairies.	...	15
Drainage.	...	149
Drain Tests.	...	157
Factories (without mechanical power)..		51
Factories (with mechanical power).	...	46
Food Handling Byelaws.	...	63
Housing (Consolidated Regulations 1925).	...	317
Housing (Other).	...	642
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens.	...	4
Ice Cream (Registered Premises).	...	39
Infectious Disease.	...	27
Rats and Mice.	...	397
Schools.	...	14
Unsound Food.	...	21
Water Supply.	...	178
		<u>2200</u>

Notices Issued.

Informal.	...	57
Statutory re housing.	...	4
Statutory under other Acts.	...	3
		<u>64</u>

Summary of Defects Remedied.

Accumulations removed.	...	25
Drains and Gullies cleared.	...	19
Drains repaired.	...	12
Drains reconstructed.	...	26
New drains provided.	...	107
Defective floors repaired.	...	32
Defective roofs repaired.	...	56
Defective eaves & gutters repaired.	...	31
Defective brickwork repaired.	...	27
Defective Coppers remedied.	...	6
Disinfections after Infectious Disease.	...	27
Defective windows repaired.	...	10
Defective chimneys repaired.	...	9
Dampness of Walls and Floors remedied.	...	14
Closets repaired.	...	12
Dairies improved.	...	2
Inspection Chambers repaired.	...	6
Old drains sealed.	...	8
Privies converted to Pail Closets.	...	16
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets.	...	21
Privies converted to Water Closets....		14
Rainwater pipes, provided or repaired.		62
New sinks provided.	...	59
Soil Pipes repaired.	...	19
Sanitary fittings provided.	...	51
Wells cleansed or repaired.	...	17
Water supplies provided.	...	14
Miscellaneous defects remedied.	...	138
		<u>840</u>

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

There are 43 factories within the area registered with the Local Authority, 20 of these being factories with mechanical power. Altogether 154 inspections were made. One defect was discovered and remedied.

There are no outworkers on the register.

Factory Form 572 (revised).

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1951, for the Rural District of Ross and Whitchurch in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act.

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	23	51	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	20	46	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	18	57	Nil	Nil
Total	61	154	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Sanitary Conveniences					
a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	1	-	-	-
Total	1	2	-	-	-

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

At the beginning of the year, the Council, together with the Hereford Rural and Ledbury Rural District Councils appointed a full time Pests Control Officer. The result of that officer's work is given in the tables below:-

(a) Infestations:

	Total.	Notified by Occupier.	Otherwise discovered.	R a t s		Mice.
				Major.	Minor.	
Local Authority's Properties.	4	-	4	2	2	-
Dwelling Houses.	31	2	29	-	31	-
Business Premises.	10	1	9	2	8	-
Agricultural Properties.	109	1	108	8	101	-
Total	154	4	150	12	142	-

(b) Measures of Control:

	Property inspect- ed.	No. of Inspect- ions.	Informal Notice served.	Notices served under Sect. 4.	Treatment carried out.
L.A. Properties.	8	15	-	-	5
Dwelling Houses.	83	86	11	-	-
Business Premises.	27	32	4	-	-
Agricultural Properties.	279	301	8	-	-
Total	397	434	23	-	5

SECTION D - HOUSING

Progress in the erection of new dwellings by the Local Authority continued to be fairly satisfactory, as 48 new houses were completed and occupied, whilst a further 55 houses were under construction, but incomplete at the end of the year. The completed dwellings were situated at Lea (10), Llangarron (14), Garway (5) and Bridstow (19). The remaining 55 were in the parishes of Bridstow (2), Brampton Abbots (8), Garway (1), Lea (2) and Walford (42). These houses brought the total number of dwellings provided by the Council to 173, located according to parish as shown in the following table:-

	<u>Occupied.</u>	<u>Under Construction.</u>
Brampton Abbotts.	6	8
Bridstow.	28	2
Brockhampton.	12	-
Hentland.	8	-
How Caple.	4	-
Lea.	14	2
Kings Caple.	8	-
Linton.	6	-
Llangarron.	26	-
Garway.	11	1
Marstow.	8	-
Peterstow.	3	-
Ross Rural.	2	-
Upton Bishop.	4	-
Walford.	10	42
Welsh Newton.	1	-
Whitchurch.	14	-
Weston-under-Penyard.	4	-
Yatton.	4	-
	<u>173</u>	<u>55</u>

As there were 3483 occupied dwellings within the area at the end of the year, the proportion owned by the Council is just over 5%.

The lack of adequate water supplies is perhaps, the most important local condition limiting the erection of new houses.

In addition to dwellings completed by the Council, private persons succeeded in completing 11 dwellings, whilst 10 houses were under construction but incomplete at the end of the year. The following table shows the location of these according to parish:-

	<u>Complete.</u>	<u>Under Construction.</u>
Hentland.	2	-
Hope Mansel.	1	-
Ross Rural.	3	1
St. Weonards.	1	1
Walford.	1	-
Weston-under-Penyard.	2	-
Whitchurch.	1	-
Goodrich.	-	2
Llangarron.	-	2
Peterstow.	-	3
Upton Bishop.	-	1
	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>

It is the general experience of persons erecting houses that building progress is subject to delays. Nevertheless, these houses do make some contribution towards the provision of housing accommodation within the area.

Overcrowding is almost absent within the area. At the beginning of the year 3 dwelling houses were known to be overcrowded and one case was found during the year. Two cases were relieved during the year, and at the end of the year 2 overcrowded dwellings were known to the department.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	584
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	642
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1a above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	317
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	396
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ...	10
4.		Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	238

Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. ...	97
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

1.		Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	3
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
		(i) By Owners.	3
		(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners.	Nil
2.		Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
	(a)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. ..	3
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
		(i) By Owners.	3
		(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners.	Nil

3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. ... 1
- (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. ... Nil
4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. ... Nil
- (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.... Nil

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. ... 2
- (b) Number of families dwelling therein. ... 2
- (c) Number of persons dwelling therein. ... $12\frac{1}{2}$
- (d) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year. ... 2
- (e) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. ... 2
- (f) Number of persons concerned in (e) above. ... 20

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949.

- Section 2. The number of demolition orders quashed as a result of the erection of works rendering dwellings fit for habitation. ... Nil
- Section 4.(a) The number of new dwellings provided by construction, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority.... Nil
- (b) The number of new dwellings provided by conversion of existing buildings, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority. ... Nil
- Section 15 (a) The number of dwellings provided by the Local Authority by the conversion of houses or other buildings. ... Nil
- (b) The number of dwellings improved by the Local Authority. ... Nil
- Section 20 (a) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by the conversion of buildings. ... Nil
- (b) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings. ... 1

Housing Survey.

Analysis of Inspections carried out during period 1.1.51. - 31.12.51.

Parish.	Classification				Total		Remarks.
	1.	2.	3/4.	5.	Inspected.		
Brockhampton.	27	8	19	1	55	}	Inspections of these parishes completed.
Foy.	7	13	34	-	54		
How Caple.	16	7	11	-	34		
Linton.	8	11	46	1	66		
Sollershope.	4	1	11	2	18		
Upton Bishop.	7	15	62	6	90		Inspections not yet completed.
Total.	69	55	183	10	317		
Add total inspections in 1945/50	128	434	1372	256	2190		
Grand Total	197	489	1555	266	2507		

Classifications:

- Group 1. Houses fit in all respects for habitation.
 " 2. Houses requiring minor repairs and/or alterations.
 " 3.)
 " 4.) Houses requiring major repairs and/or alterations.
 " 5. Houses scheduled for demolition.

The Housing Survey has now been completed in the following parishes:-

Aston Ingham, Ballingham, Brampton Abbotts, Bridstow, Brockhampton, Foy, Ganarew, Goodrich, Hentland, Harewood, Hope Mansel, How Caple, Kings Caple, Lea, Linton, Llandinabo, Llangarron, Llanwarne, Marstow, Pencoyd, Peterstow, Ross Rural, Sellack, Sollershope, Tretire, Welsh Bicknor, Welsh Newton, Walford, Weston-under-Penyard and Whitchurch.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODMilk.

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council increased during the year from four to eight. The number of dairy inspections made was 15, and 2 dairies were improved as a result of these inspections.

Five samples of milk were sent for biological examination for tuberculosis. The tuberculosis bacillus was absent in all samples submitted. One sample of milk was submitted for bacteriological examination for pathogenic organisms but was reported as being free. In addition, 71 samples of ungraded milk were sent for methylene blue test. Of these, 15 samples, or 21% of the total samples, failed to conform to the test. These samples were obtained from four separate sources, ten originating from one distributor.

There are no pasteurising plants or milk sterilising plants within the area. No dealers or supplementary dealers' licences for the sale of sterilised, pasteurised, or tuberculin tested milk were issued by the Council during the year. It would seem that there is no sale of pasteurised milk within the district, but there appears to be a small sale of heat treated milk.

There was no evidence at any time during the year that milk consumed in the area had caused any acute disease in man.

Ice Cream.

The sale of this food continued to be popular, and is of some significance during the summer months, especially in the Symonds Yat area. The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of ice cream was 2, and the number registered for the storage and sale increased from 6 to 11 during the year. The number of inspections made of registered premises was 39. Conditions were satisfactory and no action was required to be taken by the Department.

The number of samples of this food submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination at various times during the season was 19, and 12 of these were classified as falling within provisional grade 1, and 6 within provisional grade 2. The remaining sample was provisional grade 3. This is fairly satisfactory and is an improvement on the results of the previous year, but it must be remembered that the summer of 1951 was cool.

Water Cress.

This food grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the District. There are no commercial beds within the area and the sale of water cress during the year was very small. No action was required by the Department regarding this food and no illness was attributed to the consumption of infected water cress.

Shell Fish.

No action by the Department was necessary in connection with shell fish offered for sale. The sale of shell fish appears to be very small, but occasionally oysters are sold. The sale of mussels, cockles and similar shell fish is insignificant, and the tendency at the present time is for these to be sold cooked and packed in sealed jars.

Meat.

There are now no slaughterhouses in operation within the area, as these have remained closed since the early war period. All meat is obtained by traders from the regional abattoirs of the Ministry of Food.

No slaughtering took place in the Rural District during the year.

Unsound Food.

The following list gives the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption, and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Food.</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness.</u>
22 x 12 oz Cans	Apricots.	Decomposition and fermentation.
1 x 18½ oz. Can	Carrots.	Blown Can.
4 x 14 oz. Cans.	Condensed Milk.	Decomposition.
1 x 2 pints	Evaporated Milk.	-do-
1 jar	Pears.	-do-
2 x 1 lb. Cans	Pilchards.	Blown Cans.
10 x 20 oz. Cans.	Plums.	-do-
5 x 12 oz. Cans.	Pork Luncheon Meat.	-do-
6 x 14½ oz. Cans	Tomatoes.	-do-
1 x 16 oz. Cans	Vegetable Soup.	-do-

Food Poisoning.

The number of food poisoning notifications received was two. This number is identical with that of the previous year. Both cases occurred in one outbreak, and whilst the symptoms and onset were very suggestive of food poisoning, no confirmation could be obtained bacteriologically. Both cases occurred in the second quarter, and in the same guest house at the same time. The article of food conveying infection was not detected but it is possible the symptoms may have been due to metallic contamination. Unfortunately no proof was obtained and the outbreak must be classified as of unknown origin.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
DISEASE

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease in the population of the area during the year shows a reduction from 165 in 1950 to 128 in the year under review. This reduction is due chiefly to reduced prevalence of measles from 68 cases in 1950 to 23 cases, and to the notification of 3 cases of scarlet fever as compared with 8 in the previous year. The incidence of whooping cough showed little change, there being 59 cases against 66, but acute poliomyelitis fell to 1 solitary case.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>1st Quarter.</u>	<u>2nd Quarter.</u>	<u>3rd Quarter.</u>	<u>4th Quarter.</u>
Dysentery.	2	23	1	1
Scarlet Fever.	-	2	1	-
Measles.	11	5	2	5
Pneumonia.	10	2	-	-
Whooping Cough.	14	14	17	14
Poliomyelitis. (Paralytic).	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	1	1
All Diseases.	39	46	22	21

There were no notifications of diphtheria, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever or erysipelas. Diagnosis was accurate and the efficiency of notification fairly good.

Scarlet Fever.

Only 3 cases of scarlet fever were notified, all being single cases, occurring in the middle of the year. The attack rate is 0.25 per 1,000 population, which is less than half the incidence in the previous year. The incidence rate for the year for England and Wales is 1.11 per 1000 population. The disease was mild and there were no deaths. All patients were in the 5 - 15 years group.

Dysentery.

The number of notifications of dysentery received was 27, and is unusual experience for the District. All cases were of Sonn  infection. Of these, 24 occurred within the second quarter, each of the remaining quarters yielding only one case. The incidence of the disease bore no special relation to sex. The youngest patient was aged $1\frac{1}{2}$ years, whilst the oldest was 42 years. The age group with the maximum incidence was the 5-10 years group with 11 cases. The attack rate for the Rural District was 2.28 per 1000 population.

Measles.

The Rural District was never entirely free from measles at any time during the year, but the incidence of this disease was low as only 23 notifications were received, one half of these occurred in the first quarter. The incidence was lowest in the third quarter. In the previous year 68 cases were notified with an attack rate of 5.75 per 1000 population. Four households each gave rise to two cases, and the age group showing the heaviest incidence was the 5 - 10 years group giving rise to 14 cases.

The disease was fairly mild and there were no deaths. The attack rate is 1.94 per 1000 population, which is to be compared with the morbidity rate for England and Wales of 14.07 per 1000 population for the year.

Pneumonia.

The incidence of pneumonia remained almost unchanged - 12 cases occurred as against 13 of the previous year. This acute infectious disease caused six deaths, giving a corrected death rate of 0.4 per 1000 population. The disease was most prevalent during the first quarter of the year (10 cases) and was absent during the third and fourth quarters. The incidence was almost equally shared between the sexes.

Whooping Cough.

This disease remained endemic in the District throughout the year; altogether 59 notifications were received. The first, second and fourth quarters gave 14 notifications respectively, whilst the remaining quarter produced 17 notifications. The disease was responsible for just under one half of the total notifications received.

The attack rate for the Rural District for the year is 4.99 per 1000 population, which is about identical with the rate for 1950.

Nine dwellings each gave rise to two cases, whilst three others each gave rise to three cases. The age group showing the maximum incidence was the 5-10 years group.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

Fortunately only one case occurred in the first quarter. This was a mild paralytic case with insignificant disability. The patient was an adult female.

The morbidity rate of the Rural District is 0.08 per 1000 population, with a nil death rate from this disease.

Other Diseases.

Two cases of puerperal fever were notified, and one case of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred.

Below is given a table showing the incidence of infectious disease according to age.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain
Age Groups.

Disease.	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Age N.K.
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.	-	3	6	11	1	1	2	3	-	-	-
Measles.	-	4	2	14	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	3	4	1
Whooping Cough.	4	12	15	20	4	1	-	2	-	1	-
Polio- myelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Disease.	5	20	23	47	8	2	5	9	3	5	1

Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year, there were 77 cases of tuberculosis on the register (53 pulmonary and 24 non-pulmonary). During the year 18 cases were added (14 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary), of these 9 were new respiratory cases and 3 were new cases of non-respiratory disease. The number of cases removed from the register during the year was 9 (8 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary). At the end of the year, therefore, 86 cases remained on the register (59 pulmonary and 27 non-pulmonary cases). There was one female death attributed to pulmonary disease. One pulmonary case and one case of non-respiratory disease were regarded as having recovered.

New Cases and Mortality during 1951.

Age Groups.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
15+	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
35+	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
45+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55+	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	6	2	2	-	1	-	-
